IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite Claims 1-5 and 13-18 and add new Claims 19-33, as follows. Please cancel Claims 6-12.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring the qualifications of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered task for which ~~joining polyethylene pipe and fittings as required by~~ regulatory authorities have established required standards, comprising:

means for providing the hardware and software for performing a ~~Department of Transportation~~ covered task[[s]];

means for interactive teaching, testing and/or evaluating the simulation or performance of a said ~~Department of Transportation~~ covered task[[s]]; and verify by

means of documenting the results of said interactive teaching, testing and/or evaluating of said simulation or performance of a said ~~Department of Transportation~~ covered task[[s.]], and locating and recording the site of the covered task by means of the system's GPS.

2. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuring proper procedures for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings as required by regulatory authorities~~ according to claim 1 wherein said ~~Department of Transportation~~ covered ~~tasks are~~ task is selected from mechanical, heat fusion and electro-fusion.

3. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuing proper procedures for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings as required by regulatory authorities~~ according to claim 2 wherein a said mechanical covered task includes compression, bolt-on or stab-on connections.

4. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuring proper procedures for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings as required by regulatory authorities~~ according to claim 2 wherein said heat fusion covered task[[s]] includes butt fusion, socket fusion or sidewall fusion.

5. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuring proper procedures, for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings as required by regulatory authorities~~ according to claim 2 wherein said electro-fusion covered task includes in-line coupling fusion or saddle fusion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of ensuring that the qualifications of a workman to follow proper procedures ~~installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fittings to plastic pipe~~ of a covered task selected from a list of identified covered tasks to meet governmental and/or industrial standards, comprising the steps of:

(a) for each ~~installation~~ covered task, measuring physical parameters employed by the workman in the application ~~of a heat weldable thermoplastic fittings to a~~

~~plastic pipe~~, or simulation of the application of steps required to complete the covered task;

(b) recording the valves of parameters measured or simulated in step (a) as to each ~~installation~~ covered task;

(c) comparing the values recorded in step (b) for each ~~installation~~ covered task with approved pre-established standards; and

(d) providing a record of the results of step (c) identifying ~~installations~~ covered tasks that meet and/or those that don't meet said pre-established approved standards to thereby determine the qualification of a workman.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of ensuring that installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to plastic pipe meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~ according to claim 13 wherein step (a) includes measuring or simulating the voltage, current, and time of application of voltage applied to electric heat weldable fittings.

15. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of ensuring that installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to plastic pipe meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~ according to claim 13 including measuring or simulating ~~and recording, as to each installation,~~ the applicable ambient temperature.

16. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of ensuring that installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to plastic pipe meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~ according to claim 13 wherein apparatus used in performing the covered task (each said heat weldable thermoplastic fitting) has thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to requirements for the successful (welding application thereof) performance of the covered task and including the step of reading said bar code and employing

information obtained therefrom to provide at least a portion of said ~~approved pre-established~~ governmental and/or industrial standards.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of ensuring that installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to plastic pipe meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~ according to claim 13 including the step of storing ~~information as to the parameters employed in the application of each electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to a thermoplastic pipe~~said record of the results of step (d).

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of ensuring that installations of electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to plastic pipe meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~ according to claim [[14]]17 including the step of printing out a permanent record of the ~~steps employed in applying each electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to a plastic pipe~~results of step (d) whereby the qualifications of a workman as to each task performed or simulated by the workman can be preserved.

19. (New) A system for ensuring the qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered task according to claim 1, including:

means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task.

20. (New) A system for ensuring the qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered task according to claim 19, wherein said means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task includes global positioning system instrumentation.

21. (New) A system to ensure the proficiency of a workman when performing a task for which regulatory authorities or industries have established required standards, referred to as a covered task, comprising:

means for providing an interactive training, testing and/or learning environment permitting the workman to physically interact with the subject matter making up the covered task;

means providing hardware and software for performing a covered task by the completion of a predefined sequence of steps;

as to a specific covered task, means permitting the workman to physically perform said covered task or simulate the performance of said covered task;

means to provide a record that records each step taken by said workman in the performance, whether actual or simulated, of said covered task; and

means to evaluate the workman performance and verify each covered task completed, whether actual or simulated, to provide an indication of the proficiency of said workman.

22. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task is selected from mechanical, heat fusion and electro-fusion covered tasks.

23. (New) A system according to claim 22 wherein said mechanical covered task is selected from compression, bolt-on or stab-on connections covered tasks.

24. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task is for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings by heat fusion and wherein said heat fusion covered tasks include butt fusion, socket fusion or sidewall fusion and wherein said hardware includes

infrared thermometer instrumentation for measuring surface temperature of heat fusable components.

25. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task covers electro-fusion of in-line coupling fusion or saddle fusion.

26. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to weld the fitting to a thermoplastic pipe and wherein said hardware includes:

a voltage source;

a microprocessor operated voltage control circuit connected to said voltage source and having an output removably connectable to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting;

an amperage measurement circuit in association with said voltage control circuit for determining current flow through said heat weldable thermoplastic fitting; and

an input system connected to said voltage control circuit to impart characteristics of the weldable thermoplastic fitting and ambient conditions, the voltage control system serving to apply proper voltage for a determined time to complete thermoplastic welding of the fitting to a thermoplastic pipe.

27. (New) A system according to claim 26 wherein said covered task includes the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting according and including;

an ambient temperature circuit forming a part of said input system.

28. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes;

a sensor for detecting the temperature of said weldable thermoplastic fitting; and

a logic circuit responsive to said sensor forming a part of said input system.

29. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes;

feed-back logic circuitry interconnected between said weldable thermoplastic fitting and said voltage control circuit.

30. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said weldable thermoplastic fitting has thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to requirements for to successful welding application thereof and wherein said hardware includes an input system having a bar code reader.

31. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes an information storage system in communication with an input system by which information as to the parameters employed in the application of an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to a thermoplastic pipe are stored.

32. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting and

wherein said hardware includes a printer in communication with an information storage system for providing a print out of details of welding said electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to a plastic pipe.

33. (New) A system for ensuring the qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered task according to claim 21 including:

means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task.

34. (New) A system for ensuring the qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered task according to claim 33 wherein said means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task includes global positioning system instrumentation.

35. (New) A method of ensuring the qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures when performing a task for which regulatory authorities or industries have established required standards, referred to as a covered task, comprising:

involving the workman in an interactive training, testing and/or learning environment;

providing hardware and software for performing a covered task by completion of a predetermined sequence of steps;

permitting a workman to perform or simulate the performance of said covered task employing said hardware and software;

making a record of each step taken by said workman when performing or simulating the performance of said covered task; and

evaluating said record to obtain an indication of the proficiency of said workman to perform the covered task.

36. (New) A method of ensuring the qualification of a workman according to claim 35 in which the covered task is the installation of an electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting wherein the heat weldable thermoplastic fitting has thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to requirements for the successful installation thereof and including the step of reading said bar code and employing information obtained therefrom in the evaluation of the proficiency of said workman.

37. (New) A method of ensuring the qualification of a workman according to claim 35 including the step of printing out a permanent record of each step employed by said workman whereby if a workman fails to achieve qualification, the reason therefor may be identified.

38. (New) A method according to claim 35 including the step of identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task.

39. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein said step for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task includes the use of global positioning system instrumentation.